

# G.H.W. Bush used Nazi-Collaborators to get Elected

By Russ Bellant

The émigré fascist network within the Republican Party represents a small but significant element of the coalition that brought Ronald Reagan into the White House. It is from this network that the George H.W. Bush presidential campaign assembled its ethnic outreach unit in 1988. When news of this emerged, Bush's ethnic outreach unit saw eight resignations by persons charged with anti-semitism, racism, fascist leanings and Nazi collaboration. [Editor's Note: George Bush, Jr., was responsible for spin control during his father's 1988 campaign. When the Nazi-linked organizers within George Sr.'s Heritage Council were exposed, George Jr. urged the exposed European fascists to resign. However, four of the eight who did resign continued to hold top positions within the Republican Heritage Groups Council.]

These right-wing émigrés are a small but vocal element within the broader ethnic communities they claim to represent. They utilize anti-communist sentiments, historical revisionism and lack of knowledge about Eastern and Central Europe as a shield to deflect inspection and criticism of their past actions and current views.

The émigré fascist network organizes support for its ideological



*During his 1988 presidential campaign, George Bush Sr. (like Nixon and others before him), used a Republican network lead by right-wing, East European émigrés, including Nazi-collaborators. Bush is seen here at a July 20, 1988, banquet (co-sponsored by the pro-Nazi Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations) with Bohdan Fedorak, of the Ukrainian Nationalists - Bandera that organized military units to massacre Ukrainian Jews in WWII.*

agenda through national and international coalitions of like-minded constituencies that often work with other authoritarian and pro-fascist forces. This broader coalition ranges from Axis allies and their apologists to friends and allies of contemporary dictatorships and authoritarian regimes.

The nature of the right-wing

émigré network that Reagan and Bush used to promote their 1984 and 1988 campaigns can be illustrated by briefly reviewing the backgrounds of some of the past and current leaders of the Republican Heritage Groups Council.

**Source:** *Old Nazis, the New Right and the Republican Party*, Boston: South End Press, 1991.

## The Republican Heritage Groups Council and its Nazi Links

**E**x-Nazis as well as fascist collaborators and sympathizers can be found at the highest levels of the Republican Heritage Group. Who are these people? Russ Bellant's research provides much information.

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### Laszlo Pasztor

Pasztor, the founding chair and a key figure in the Republican Heritage Group (and *ipso facto*, the Republican

Party) helped form the Bulgarian National Front, headed by his friend, Ivan Docheff. As early as 1971, the GOP ["Grand Old Party," i.e. the Republican Party] was warned that the Bulgarian National Front was "beyond the pale." A Jack Anderson column quoted another Bulgarian-American organization, the conservative Bulgarian National Committee, which labeled Docheff's Front as "fascist." But the GOP took no action. Professor Spas T. Raikin, a former official of the National Front, says it grew out of a Bulgarian organization that in the 1930s and 1940s was "pro-Nazi and pro-fascist." [Jack Anderson, "Nixon Appears a Little Soft on Nazis," *Washington Post*, Nov. 10, 1971, p.B17.]

## Radi Slavoff

Slavoff, the Republican Heritage Group's executive director, is a member of the Bulgarian GOP unit of the Group Council. [He was also the national co-chairman of Bulgarians for Bush.] Slavoff is active with the Nazi-linked National Confederation of American Ethnic Groups (NCAEG), which becomes active about a year before presidential elections. NCAEG leaders have included Austin App and Josef Mikus (see below). NCAEG's Executive Vice President, Michael Szaz, is an official of the Virginia Republican Heritage Groups Council. He is also an associate of prominent racist Roger Pearson [associated with the Nazi Northern League of northern Europe, the Heritage Foundation, the World Anti-Communist League and other fascist organizations.]



## Austin App

App, a pro-Nazi activist, and author of *The Six Million Swindle*, asserts that the Nazi extermination of the Jews didn't happen. He is a founder of the NCAEG, a member of the German American National Congress and the Coalition for Peace Through Strength. He has been particularly active in Willis Carto's anti-Semitic Institute for Historical Review and worked with Roger Pearson on a Carto publication called *Western Destiny*. In 1946, App wrote that "the German armies [were] the most decent armies of the war." In his 1974 pamphlet, "A Straight Look at the Third Reich and National Socialism, How Right? How Wrong," App wrote: "The truth is that in WWII the Third Reich fought for justice, and the Allies fought to prevent justice." [Foster and Epstein, p. 229, *No Time for Silence: Pleas for a Just Peace*

*Over Four Decades*, 1987, p. 62; Austin J. App, *Ravishing the Conquered Women of Europe*, as cited by John Roy Carlson in *The Plotters*, 1946, pp.160-61.]



## Josef Mikus

Mikus asserts that a German victory would have been preferable to an allied one during the WWII. Mikus was an unrepentant supporter of Monsignor Josef Tiso, the Catholic priest and leader of the Slovakian Hlinka Guard during WWII. Lucy Dawidowicz, in her book *War Against the Jews*, estimated that the Hlinka Guard participated in the murder of 75,000 Slovak Jews. Jack Anderson named Mikus as an advisor to various national Republican Party figures [Jack Anderson, "Doleful Dole," *Washington Post*, May 18, 1978, p. A25; Jack Anderson and Les Whitten, "Nazi Eulogy," *Washington Post*, May 4, 1976, p.B15.]

## Nicolas Nazarenko

A former WWII officer in the German SS Cossack Division under General Helmuth von Pannwitz, Nazarenko headed a Cossack GOP unit of the Republican Heritage Groups Council. He is still active with pro-Nazi elements in the U.S. and continues to be consumed with his wartime hatred of Jews, having on more than one occasion declared that Jews remain his "ideological enemy." He has been accused by other Cossack émigrés with hanging Jews in Odessa during the war. He used to organize the annual "Captive Nations" march in New York City. [Note: "Captive Nations" is the term used by these fascists to describe countries with communist governments.]

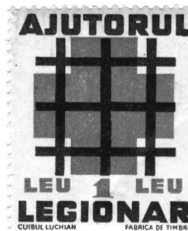


Gen. Helmuth von Pannwitz



## Florian Galdau

An associate of Romanian Archbishop Valerian Trifa (see below), who emigrated to the U.S. after WWII and established an American network of Nazi expatriates. Trifa brought Galdau to the U.S. in 1955 to head a New York City Iron Guard unit. (The Iron Guard was the Romanian army that collaborated with the Nazis during WWII.) Galdau's task was to recruit new Romanian immigrants into the Guard. According to FBI documents, however, Trifa lied to Immigration authorities about his Nazi background. He also hid the fact that he had participated in the murder of Jews in Bucharest, Romania in 1941. In 1984, Archbishop Trifa was brought to trial by the Office of Special Investigation (OSI) on charges that he had filed false immigration papers. Trifa fled the country later that year to avoid prosecution, leaving behind Galdau to carry on his work. Before leaving, Trifa ordered the installation of Galdau as pastor of St. Dumitru, a Manhattan parish. It has been estimated that Galdau helped bring into the U.S. as many as 20,000 Romanian refugees – all Nazi collaborators. Over the years, Galdau has performed priestly functions at events that commemorated Iron Guard founder Corneliu Codreanu. Trifa himself once concurred in an interview that the Galdau church was "a center of fascists." In 1974, *The United Israel Bul-*



*This WWII-era Romanian stamp has the symbol of the Iron Guard.*

letin of New York headlined a story, "Florian Galdau, a Priest, Heads New York Iron Guard Cell." [Summer 1974, p.1.] Galdau is a founder of the Republican Heritage Groups Council and was listed as a member of the Host Committee for a reception honoring President Reagan's Ambassador to the UN, Jeane Kirkpatrick and Frank Fahrenkopf, Jr., Chairman of the Republican National Committee, during the Council's 1987 meeting in Washington, D.C. In 1988, he was named National Chair of Romanians for Bush.



### Valerian Trifa

Leader of the Romanian Iron Guard in Bucharest in 1941. The Guard was a pro-Nazi Romanian group linked to the SS by liaison officers such as Otto von Bolschwig of the German SS. In 1941, the Guard went on a rampage in Bucharest, seeking out Jews for gruesome deaths. Three days of chaos ensued. Witnesses charge that during those days, Trifa personally went into a jail and killed Jews. After the war, Trifa came to the U.S. and took over the Romanian Orthodox church by means of physical coercion. In 1952, Trifa became an Archbishop of the Romanian Orthodox Church.

### Walter Melianovich

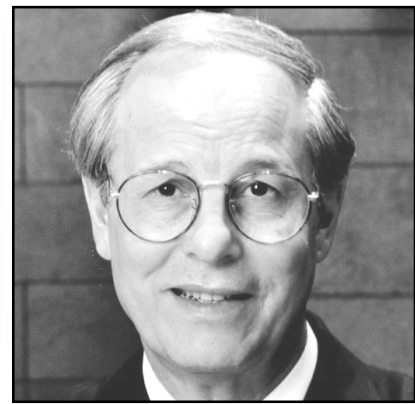
The head of the Byelorussian GOP unit. The unit is closely associated with the Byelorussian-American Association (BAA), an émigré group made up, in part, of former collaborators of the Nazi occupation and its extermination campaign. An early BAA leader was Franz Kushel, an SS major general and commander of the Belarus Brigade, a Waffen SS unit. According to *The*

*This monument to Byelorussian veterans of World War II, at Saint Euphrosynia's Orthodox Cemetery in South River, New Jersey, contains the dreaded symbol of the Belarus-Nazi SS division.*



*Belarus Secret* (1982) by John Loftus, a book about Byelorussian Nazi collaboration [and the post-WWII recruitment of Byelorussians by the U.S. government], Kushel's men took 40,000 Jews to an execution ground in 1941. Another BAA leader, Stanislaw Stankievich, the editor of a Nazi-funded newspaper, came from an upper-class family of Nazi collaborators. He became mayor of Borissow in 1941. After having a wall built around the Jewish section of the city, Stankievich conducted a series of financial extortions on the contained ghetto. His police then sadistically exterminated Borissow's 7,000 Jews on October 20, 1941. As the Soviets advanced on German-occupied Byelorussia, a puppet Byelorussian Congress was formed to help mobilize support for the defense of Germany. The 1,039 delegates to this All-Byelorussian Second Congress were screened and approved by Germany. These delegates, many of them leaders of police units and a Byelorussian Waffen SS division, came to dominate the BAA.

Melianovich has met with various U.S. agencies including the National Security Council staff in an effort to return fascists to power in Byelorussia. Melianovich has even provided U.S. government leaders with a map of Byelorussia complete with new "ethnogenetical borders." Melianovich claims that the Republican Heritage Groups Council has "changed the image of the Republican Party under our pressure." Charging the Democrats with only caring about "the Black and Jewish vote," he says that "if anyone should be called nationalist, it is the GOP." Melianovich became national chairman of Byelorussians for Bush in 1988.



### Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr.

Fahrenkopf, the former chairman of the Republican National Committee, became particularly linked to Croatian Republicans. For example, he signed a 1984 Republican Heritage Groups Council booklet listing commemorative dates of significance to ethnic Americans. The entry for April 10 reads: "The Independent State of Croatia was declared by unanimous proclamation in 1941.... Lack of Western support and Axis occupation forced the new state into an unfortunate association with the Axis powers." The statement is a fabrication. Croatia was pro-Nazi long before the German occupation. The Nazis had a long-standing relationship with the Croatian Ustashi beginning years before the WWII. Indeed, the Nazis conspired with the Vatican to help create the "independent state of Croatia" after the German attack on Yugoslavia in the spring of 1941. Without Vatican and Nazi support, Croatia would never have gained its "independence."

Soon thereafter, the Ustashi began systematically liquidating Orthodox Serbians, Jews and Gypsies. So frenzied did their effort eventually become that even the Nazis were taken aback by the barbarity of the Ustashi concentration camps and the liquidation of whole Serbian villages. Huge ovens at Jasenovac reportedly burned Serbs, Jews and Gypsies alive. An estimated 750,000 people, mostly Serbs, were killed by the Croats. The "independent state of Croatia," which Fahrenkopf suggests should be commemorated, ceased to exist after the fall of the Third Reich.

Croatia's recent re-emergence under right-wing German, Austrian and Vatican pressure may very well foreshadow the kind of power structure which is currently re-surfacing in Croatia.

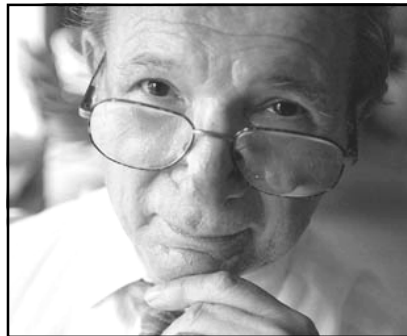
## Method Balco

The head of the Slovak-American Republican Federation of the Republican Heritage Groups Council is a close friend of Josef Mikus and John Hvasta (see below). Like Balco, Mikus and Hvasta are members of the Slovak Republican delegation to the Republican Heritage Groups Council. All three work closely with the Toronto-based Slovak World Congress, a group set up



Josef Tiso

and greatly influenced by former aides to Monsignor Josef Tiso. Tiso was the head of Slovakia, a Nazi puppet state during the war. Slovakia was created by Hitler after he split Czechoslovakia in 1939. When the U.S. declared war on Germany on Dec. 12, 1941, Tiso declared Slovakia at war with the U.S. Tiso created the Hlinka Guard, a unit allied with the German SS that slaughtered 75,000 Jews. Despite this Nazi history in Slovakia, Balco organized an annual commemoration of the Tiso rule in New York.



## John Hvasta

A member of the Slovak Republican delegation to the Republican Heritage Groups Council. Hvasta also helped the 1988 Presidential Campaign of former Ku Klux Klan leader and white supremacist, David Duke. Hvasta has also been linked to Joseph Kirschbaum, a principal of the Slovak World Congress. Kirschbaum was a top commander of the SS-like Hlinka Guard. Kirschbaum edited a number of speeches by Ferdinand Durcansky, Tiso's former foreign minister. One speech which touched on the massacre of Jews in Slovakia ominously warned, "I hope we live to see the time when the Jews draw from these facts the necessary objective conclusions."

**Source:** Excerpts from Russ Bellant's *Old Nazis, the New Right and the Republican Party* (Boston: South End Press, 1991). The article above, compiled by S.R. Shearer in 1996, quotes from and summarizes Bellant's work. It is available online as: "Strange Bedfellows: The Religious Right and the Secular Right: Evangelicals are in Danger of being Defined by the Company they Keep." <[www.antipasministries.com/oldnews/bedfells.html](http://www.antipasministries.com/oldnews/bedfells.html)>



## Bohdan Fedorak

When Fedorak was the national vice-chair of Ukrainians for Bush. He introduced vice-presidential candidate George H.W. Bush at a July 20, 1988, campaign stop at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, Warren, Michigan. It was a banquet in solidarity with the so-called "Captive Nations." This banquet was co-sponsored by the pro-Nazi, Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations.

Fedorak was the top leader for external affairs in the U.S. for the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists-Bandera (OUN-B). During the Nazi occupation of the Ukraine, the OUN-B organized military units that participated in terrible atrocities including pogroms in which Ukrainian Jews were massacred. Fedorak chaired the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) in the 1980s.

He joined the Presidium of its Executive Committee in 1984. The UCCA lobbied Congress to stop the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations from pursuing Nazi-linked, Ukrainian war criminals in the U.S. The UCCA is heavily influenced but not totally controlled by the OUN-B. For many years, Fedorak has been a delegate to conferences of the pro-fascist, CIA-linked World Anti-Communist League.

## Phil Guarino

Phil Guarino, vice-chair of the Republican Heritage Council and leader of its Italian section was a Republican National Committee staffer. He was removed from Bush Sr.'s 1988 campaign because of his involvement in Italy's illegal P-2 Lodge. P-2 included top military and intelligence officers, corporate and political leaders. It was linked to the 1980 Bologna train station bombing, which killed 85. The P-2's goal was to instal a rightwing Italian dictatorship. Guarino's ties to P-2 became known when Michele Sindona, the Vatican's top banker, got 25 years in a U.S. prison for illegal banking. Investigations of Sindona led to Licio Gelli, the P-2 grandmaster. Sindona and Gelli were associates of Guarino. Gelli, an ardent Blackshirt in Mussolini's Fascist Party was the P-2 leader who made violations of its oaths punishable by death. Italian police found that Guarino was corresponding with Gelli. Guarino also hosted Gelli at Reagan's 1981 inauguration, introducing him to "members of the entourage."



Michele Sindona

Guarino's dealings with P-2 began no later than 1976, when Mafia-linked Sindona financed "Americans for a Democratic Italy," co-chaired by Guarino and Paul Rao, Jr. Rao is described in Luigi DiFonzo's *St. Peter's Banker* (1983) as "attorney for the head of the Gambino family." Sindona and Gambino family members were indicted in 1982 for "operating a \$600 million-a-year heroin trade between Sicily and America."

Guarino was also involved in John Connally's Committee for the Defense of the Mediterranean, which propagandized on the Italian Communist Party (PCI) threat to the West. Connally, a friend of Sindona, was Nixon's Secretary of the Treasury and a member of both Nixon and Ford's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Boards.

**Source:** These summaries on Fedorak and Guarino was culled by Press for Conversion editor, Richard Sanders, from Russ Bellant's *Old Nazis, the New Right & the Republican Party* (1991).